appearance of a letter in your columns from some one of your correspondents more worthy of attention than myself on the subject, but as I do not find that such letter has as yet appeared, I will beg your patience for a few moments to the following remarks, which are drawn from notes made during a summer's pilgrimage through the greater part of Switzerland; which pilgrimage was made as much with the view of visiting the rustic cottages and *châlets* of the boors, as of beholding the vast natural beauties of this most interesting country.

I passed much of my time in observing the peculiar construction of their roofs, and the clever mode of framing their houses generally; and certainly, in my judgment, the design of "P. T." as much resembles a Swiss cottage, as the towering *chaco* of a Belgian officer resembles the hat of a cardinal, the only resemblance in either case being that they are intended to answer the same purpose. In the case of the design *versus* the Swiss cottage, each is intended as an habitation for man; and in the hat case, each is intended as a covering for the head of man,—*mais à nos moutons*.

The roofs of (genuine) Swiss cottages are invariably extremely flat, with their eaves projecting in the proportion of one-fifth or even one-fourth of the entire height of the walls. The walls are frequently of stone or rubble-work to the height of the lower story, above which they are formed of 2 or 3 inch plank fastened by spikes to the uprights of the partition, and are dovetailed together at the angles of the building. The principals of the roof rest on the story-posts, which are framed and dowelled into them. The parts of the principals projecting with the eaves are strutted with grotesque brackets to the joists of the floor below, which project in the form of corbels to receive their thrust. Thus, when the tie-beam is fixed, the whole building from the first-floor inclusive forms a truss, or rather a mass of trusses. One reason for the great strength given to these roofs is, that the winter winds blow very violently in these districts, as also the fall of snow is extremely great in that season. Now, in the first place to meet the first difficulty, namely, the probable *enfoncement* of the roof, huge stones are placed on planks on the outside of the tiles, to give as much resistance as possible to the lifting power of the winds; and secondly, as the snow rests on the roofs to the thickness of many feet, the weight thereof, added to that of the stones before mentioned, makes it imperative that great strength should be studied in the formation of the roofs, to prevent the crushing powers of the combined weight.

I am, Sir, your constant reader,

BAUMEISTER.

Norwich, December 30, 1843.

THE LEICESTER MEMORIAL.

SIR.—It is most desirable that in all competitions of a public character, honour, plain-dealing, and impartiality in the judges should generate and justify perfect confidence amongst the competitors.

These premises being conceded, can all be true that I have heard on the subject of the proceedings in the matter of this memorial?

Can it be true, that, although Wednesday, the 20th ult., was named in the advertisement as the last day for the reception of designs, some one or more were actually received and allowed to be in time on Friday or Saturday, the 22nd or 23rd? If so, is this fair towards those, who, like myself, were much pressed for time, and hurried to complete our plans within the time prescribed?

Can it be true that one of the candidates (or perhaps more) personally paraded his designs to many of his friends amongst the subscribers and committee? If so, what secrecy or safeguard is there in the motives? It would be more straightforward at once to throw the matter open, and let the luckiest canvasser carry the day, than to induce those who either cannot, or will not, exert such undue influence, to enter into the lists with those who can and will.

Can it be true that a room has been taken in Norwich, in which all the designs have been arranged for public exhibition previous to the decision of the committee? If so, is it keeping good faith with those competitors who sent in their designs to a committee? I, for one, should decidedly object to such an exhibition at any time had I been consulted, and more especially to its taking place previously to the decision, and therefore subject to the "pressure from without" of private friendship.

Can it be true that a certain design having been injured in the journey, the designer and an assistant artist have been allowed to restore and beautify it in the very room where all the designs have been set out for exhibition? If so, whose design may they not, at least in part, adopt?

If these things be true, and I do not suggest them unadvisedly, what man of character would in future engage in competitions where superior talent is not his only rival? and if irregularity is to ride paramount, and rules to be set at nought, what confidence can any have in the honour, integrity, or impartiality of a committee who infringe the rules which they themselves have framed, and by which they are pledged to the public to abide?

Should my suppositions be false, I shall look anxiously for some denial of them in your columns, since it is a matter of much interest to many.

Trusting that you will give insertion to this letter, I remain, Sir, your constant subscriber and well-wisher,

A COMPETITOR.

London, January 1, 1844.

VALUATION OF PROPERTY.

SIR.—If it lies in your power, I shall esteem it as a great favour if you will furnish me (through the medium of your valuable publication) with a little information on the correct system to be pursued in the valuation of property, both leasehold and freehold. From the nature of my profession, I am sometimes called upon to give a valuation of property, and, I must confess to you, that although up to the present time I have managed the matter pretty well, I am by no means satisfied with my present knowledge on the subject of valuation. I have oftentimes inquired of those who from their age and the nature of their calling, I took it for granted knew all about it, but I found to my surprise, when I put the question to them, that they knew little more than myself. I found that their system, if it may be so called, amounted to little more than what is called a good guess. If you know of any publication which fully enters into the detail of the matter (you will see by this remark that I do not want merely a set of tables calculated in a way no one knows except the person who framed them), I shall be glad to purchase it; if you do not, perhaps yourself, or some of your talented correspondents, will be so kind as to throw a little light upon the subject. I have no apology to make for troubling you with this letter other than this, that I have read your truly interesting and valuable publication from its commencement. Wishing you much success now that we have entered upon another year, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

Birmingham, Jan. 1, 1844. J. C. S.

[The subject of valuation is in a great measure kept secret by those engaged in profitable practice: Inwood's tables are those most used in London. To be a good valuer requires great experience and local knowledge, an intimate acquaintance with *interest*, reversions, leaseholds, and all the diversified cases which come before such a practitioner; the rental, real or estimated, is the foundation-work of every such calculation; then follows the discretion in assuming a per-centage of returns; and the number of years' purchase, whether for the ground, the buildings, or reversionary interest, or improvements, must depend upon circumstances, and can only be learned by practice and ability—out of one valuation many questions often arise, and no rule can be given.—ED.]

CARPENTERS' AND JOINERS' WORK.

SIR.—As one of many who would wish to have a work of general information on carpenters' and joiners' work, those that are already published being very expensive, I would suggest to the proprietors of THE BUILDER whether it would not fully answer their purpose to get up such a work, as good and as cheap as possible, to be issued weekly. The want of it is greatly felt by the majority of the trade, and the small portion of work that falls to the lot of too many (I am sorry to say), myself among the number, renders it impossible to provide ourselves with one.

Several of my acquaintance have regretted that you have not issued an engraved frontispiece to the first volume of THE BUILDER; we would willingly pay sixpence if it could be got up for so small a sum.

I would also wish to ask if there is any possibility of obtaining work through the advertising columns of THE BUILDER, as unless I thought there was a good prospect of it, I could not afford to do so.

Heartily wishing you all the success possible for your very excellent BUILDER,

I remain, Sir, yours, &c., N. H.

[We recommend the works of Tredgold and Nicholson, and do not think them more expensive than any workman may easily purchase. Many who have advertised in our columns have reaped speedy benefit.—ED.]

SIR,—Will you have the kindness to inform me in your next whether there is any duty on building materials used in building or making additions to a church or burial-ground.

I remain, Sir, yours, obediently,

AN INQUIRER.

[The government return the duty upon the materials used in the building of new churches under her Majesty's Commissioners, but such duty forms a portion of the Commissioners' fund, and is not usually given up to the undertakers of any separate work, though sometimes upon petition to the Treasury, it has been so remitted, as in the case of St. Pancras New Church.—ED.]

SIR,—Will you have the goodness to inform me in your next number where very fine steel pens may be obtained for the purpose of sketching profiles of cornices, capitals of columns, and other fine work in architectural drawing, crow-quills being too thick, and being also very troublesome on account of requiring continually to be mended.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN WADOR.

77, Great Russell-street, Dec. 30, 1843.

[We have been so much troubled ourselves for some time past by not obtaining either drawing-pencils or sketching-pens to our mind, that gladly would we be ourselves informed where those indispensable implements of superior quality are to be obtained.—ED.]

SIR.—I shall feel obliged if you can inform me in your next BUILDER what the difference of price is between brickwork and that of ashlar or free-stone in or near London.

I am, Sir, yours very truly,

Liverpool, 2nd Dec. 1843. J. M.

[This question cannot be answered without it is accompanied by an account of the descriptions of the kinds of brick and stone which would be paralleled with each other.—ED.]

## Miscellanea.

STATUES FOR THE CITY OF LONDON.—The bronze equestrian statue of the Duke of Wellington, to be placed opposite to the entrance to the new Royal Exchange, is proceeding rapidly towards completion, under the direction of Mr. Weeks (the successor to the late Sir F. Chantrey), to whom it is intrusted. The statue of William IV., from the design of S. Nixson, to be placed at the junction of Gracechurch-street and King William-street, will be shortly raised upon its pedestal. The figure is colossal, being upwards of 14 feet in height. It is executed in Devonshire granite, and will cost when completed 2,200*l.*, which sum was voted by the corporation of the city of London for that purpose. His Majesty is represented in the costume of a high admiral. Upon the pedestal (a round one), is sculptured a wreath of laurel, in the centre of which an appropriate inscription will be engraved. A statue by Nixson is likewise in a forward state, of John Carpenter, the town clerk in the reign of Henry VI., founder of the City of London Schools, and executor to the celebrated Richard Whittington. This statue is six feet high, and will be executed in Rock Abbey stone, similar to that used by Bailey, Rossi, Westmacott, and others, for the friezes and pediments in front of Buckingham Palace. It is to be placed upon the first landing of the City of London Schools, and exactly opposite the principal entrance. There is further, in the same *atelier*, in active preparation, a statue of Sir John Crosby, to be placed in Crosby Hall, Bishopsgate-street. The model exhibits the knight in the "winged" armour of the period, examples of which may be met with in the Tower, &c., and of this particular suit at the tomb of the knight himself, in the church of St. Helen's, close by the hall of which he was the possessor.

LEAMINGTON CHURCH.—Notwithstanding the result of the Vestry meeting held some days since, and at which a rate towards the erection of an enlarged Bell Tower was disapproved of by a section of the parishioners, we are led to understand that so strong a feeling in favour of that object is prevalent amongst the friends of the Church, in this town and neighbourhood, that the required sum of £700 will be raised without difficulty by voluntary contributions. We really hope that the expectations which certain sanguine promoters of the good work have formed in this respect may be fully realised previous to our next publication.—*Leamington Courier.*

NORMAN TOWER, BURY ST. EDMUNDS.—We have much pleasure in announcing that his Royal Highness Prince Albert has been pleased to direct his name to be added to the subscription list for the restoration of the Norman Tower, for the sum of £20. Lord Manners, too, has expressed his anxious desire for the preservation of this fine edifice, and sent a donation of £20.—*Bury Post.*

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